(b) if so, whether Governmeat are considering measures to make the Anti-Dowry Laws more effective and also uniform for all religions, caste and race in the entire country?

. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Chemical warfare exercise by China

1973, SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 14th April, 1989 stating that 'Jane's Defence Weekly' has reported that the Chinese have held a chemical warfare exercise in Tibet in September last and that the Chinese do not preclude the possibility that nuclear or chemical weapons may be used by the Enemy obviously India, if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(b) what is the Government's res ponse and follow up action thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of media reports that an exercise involving chemical warfare units was held in Tibet in 1988.

(b) The Government of India have been contributing positively to ongoing negotiations on a Convention on the Prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and *on* their destruction. This fact and Government's position is wellknown to the Chinese Government.

It is Government's policy to keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security.

Desilting and deepening of Buckingham canal

1974. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T.R. BALU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of Buckingham canal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to desilt and deepen the canal;

(c) if so, what will be the cost of the project and by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) what would be the estimated traffic after the canal becomes navigable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 416 kms.

(b) to (d) Th; canal flows from Peddaganjam in Andhra Pradesh to Marakkanam backwaters in Tamil Nadu. A scheme to deepen the canal in the territory of Tamil Nadu sent by the State Government and costing Rs. 200-00 lakhs has been sanctioned as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to improve the stretch of this canal between Ennore lock (near Madras) to Chintamani Lock to a bed width of 10 metres and depth of 1 • 8 metres below low water level. The work is in progress. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also prepared additional two schemes. Similarly, the Govenment of Andhra Pradesh had also worked out four separate schemes for sanction as